

March 10, 1976

Judge Stewart M. Hanson, Jr.  
Salt Lake County Court House  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Judge Hanson:

You will, in the very near future, be receiving letters from various members of our family and others who know and love our dear Ted very much. We hope you will take the time to read them and to really try to understand, hopefully to come to know a lot more about, the wonderful young man who has recently been before you in court. We feel that, through no fault of yours, you have only heard bad things about Ted and we want you to know that there are many, many persons who have always believed in him and always will, no matter what misinformed persons may say.

(I am typing this in order to make it easier for you to read and also faster for me. I work full time and have a home and family to care for, even now, so my time is limited to do other things that I must do).

No where on the face of this earth did a boy ever grow up in a more loving family atmosphere than the one found in ours. Ted has two brothers and two sisters. He is the oldest and they have always looked to him as an ideal, a leader, a really great "big brother". They (along with many, many others who know him) do not believe him guilty of the charges for which he stood trial. By no means do we claim that Ted is perfect or never did anything wrong--none of us is in that category. We know he has done some things that we would rather he had not done, such as smoking, drinking (although not excessively), and using (for a short time) marijuana. He has also admitted to going over the speed limit in his car on occasion. To say that many others have done those same things, we know, does not make it right. However, neither would it be right to find those persons guilty of another act for which there is no positive proof, merely because we disapproved of the actions mentioned above.

However, we do not want this to be a letter of accusation against you. We understand the heavy burden that was upon you in this case. But, there was no other way to go! Due to all the adverse publicity given this case by the media, it would have been impossible to find an impartial jury. What we are hoping, as I said before, is that you will see another side of Ted that was not brought out in the trial. His lawyers could have brought before you many character witnesses. Numerous persons had volunteered to testify in his behalf. Perhaps this should have been done--hind-sight is wonderful, isn't it? However, he (Ted) knew he was innocent and so did his attorneys and all three felt they could (did) prove that, during the trial, without drawing out the proceedings with a number of character witnesses.

From this point in this letter it will be me (his mother) speaking--I find it easier to write in the first person. My husband concurs in all that is written, however, and is suggesting thoughts



as I go along. There never has been a child or young man anywhere more beloved and admired by his family than our Ted. No parents ever had a better son, and brothers and sisters a better brother. Being some five years older than our second child and fourteen years older than the fifth child, put him in a position of leadership and responsibility which he always handled quite well. This is not to say that he didn't occasionally gripe about various chores at home that were his--he was a very normal boy and would much rather at times be off playing with his pals than taking out the garbage or cutting the grass, etc. What I'm trying to say, though, is that Ted had a good childhood and young adulthood. We were (are) a family that did things together: we went camping every good summer weekend that we could; we always went to church together; we made long trips to the East coast to visit relatives on both sides of the family on at least four occasions; each child's birthday was always very special. Our children's friends were always welcome in our home and on picnics and camping trips. (sometimes it was difficult to fit them all in to our small station!) We read to and with each child and provided lots of good books<sup>wagon</sup> and music. Ted was always a good student, well thought of by his teachers, and had many friends all through school. He graduated with honors from high school here in Tacoma, and was admitted to his "first choice" college (at a time when this was not easy) with scholarship and financial aid given immediately upon application.

He did very well in college the first two years, but then began to wonder about his major (after some intensive summer study at Stanford on an all-expenses paid grant). So, as do many students, he took some time off, worked a while (never had any trouble getting or holding a job), then attended a semester at Temple University in Philadelphia (lived with my sister there). There was so much emphasis at that time about the problems and needs of the inner-city and he felt a large city like Philadelphia would be a good place to learn and study and at the same time work to help in some way. True, it was idealistic, but Ted has always been one who wanted very much to find a way to help others less fortunate than himself. His first leanings had been toward government service in order to accomplish this or law enforcement (including being a lawyer). The idea of being a teacher in the inner city did not seem to have any future, and the beautiful Northwest, its beauty, and his family, beckoned and he returned here to finish school at the University of Washington. He did this mostly on a part-time basis while working to pay expenses. He graduated with honors.

All the time, no matter where he was living--he kept in close touch with us through letters and phone calls. He was always home for Christmas (think he has only missed twice in his life-time)--coming in, usually on Christmas Eve, with numerous little surprises for all of us--but usually the best for "Mom and Dad". We had (and still have) a very special relationship, this "first-born" and I. We have been known to sit and talk together far into the night, long after his Dad had dropped off to sleep in his easy chair. We enjoyed talking about current events, politics, the state of the local, state and national government. Such things were frequently meal-time topics of conversation at our house, too. I was often involved in PTA projects or school election campaigns and we talked about them with our children. Ted developed a real desire to "get involved" in politics or government and out of this grew his decision to be



a lawyer, I believe. It was hard to get into Law School then. When he was finally accepted at Utah he was ecstatic because he had come to love the area and knew Utah to be a good school. His decision to go to the University of Utah, despite the fact that he was already attending night classes at the University of Puget Sound Law School, was a hard one to make. However, UPS was very new and not accredited then, and he felt a more established school would be better from which to graduate. We would rather have had him stay here, but Utah didn't seem all that far away and he said it was a great place. So, number two son, Glenn, helped him move in the summer of 1974. Little brother, Richard, really hated to see him go--he and Ted always had a very special relationship. Ted being 14 years older had really helped very substantially in raising him. Richard visited Ted in Salt Lake City last summer (last two weeks of July) and they had a great time together. Rich was bubbling over with tales of the good times. How could a young man be any thing but good who would take the time out of a very busy schedule to entertain a little brother and show the concern for him that he did? While Richard was visiting him, Ted had to work several evenings until 11 p.m. Each time he called Rich several times during the evening to make sure that he was all right, that he had had supper and letting Rich know what time to expect him home. Ted had (has) real love and concern for his other brother and his two sisters, but Rich was his favorite. They all knew that and were glad.

From the time that he was in junior high school, Ted was always able to find an after school or summer job and all of his employers spoke highly of him. He was a paper boy for the local newspaper for several years, worked at a bowling alley, formed a "lawn care" company with two other friends, and even did baby-sitting. As a result of the lawn-jobs, a neighbor offered him a good summer job for two years in a row with Tacoma City Light. He did well there and earned most of the money needed for two years of college. I believe you have a record of his other jobs and do hope that Mr. Hull has contacted some of those employers because I know they would have many good things to say about Ted's reliability, good moral character, and pleasant personality.

Ted took part in all types of sports: played on little league basketball and football teams, was on the track team at school and participated in intramurals of all kinds. He and his buddies went swimming and skiing at every opportunity in the appropriate seasons. On top of all this activity, Ted was active in the youth groups at our church, First United Methodist, all during junior and senior<sup>high</sup> School, serving as vice president of the group at both levels. He was also a cub scout and a boy scout and his Dad was Scoutmaster of the troop for two years and they had many great times together. Added to that, he and his Dad frequently went berry picking and bean picking to earn extra money for the family during the years when we were having a hard time to make the budget meet the family's needs. Those were long, hard days for only a few dollars, but Ted was willing. The idea of college was always in his mind. He knew we would have difficulty paying his way, so he wanted to help, and that he did, very well. I'm sure there were times when he wished we had a lot of money--most of us do!



I know there were times (because he expressed his feelings to me) when he wondered how come other kids he knew had so much more in the way of material wealth. However, after discussing it, he understood and appreciated the things we did have-- a sense of true values, family love, a home life he could depend on. One of the prime rules for all our children was that they must always let us know where they were or were going to be, if at all possible. Of all the children, Ted was most responsible in this respect. I rarely had to "call around" to find out where he was--he usually called us and also came home reasonably within the hour expected. This was not done because of threats on our part, but out of his respect for our feelings and of our concern for his well-being.

Now, you may be saying, this is all sounding good, but a mother and father are prejudiced, they are blinded by love, they don't see the "whole picture". Ah, but we see more<sup>of</sup> the "picture" than anyone else! We know more of his background than anyone else possibly can. Mothers, especially a mother in my position who was keenly desirous of having all her children have the best and do well in life, are very observant of the habits and/or problems of their children. I did not work outside the home until very recently, so was always available, even though active in community affairs. On top of what we observed at home, I (and my husband also, if possible) attended parent-teacher conferences when they were scheduled and knew very well what his teachers thought and observed about Ted. It was almost always good, but, of course, he was a normal boy and sometimes got into a scrape or two with someone else.

Why am I going into "past history" so much? Partly because I believe it has a bearing on what he is today and partly because I know there are those who are trying to establish that Ted has some kind of a personality "quirk" directly attributable to his childhood. I know that is wrong. Being wrong, then, there is no "strange demon" lurking in him and he is not the monster criminal certain persons are trying to make him out to be. HE COULD NOT BE! There has been a mistake made here in identification coupled with circumstantial evidence and happenings that do not add up to the crime of which he has been accused. It would be a tragedy of the first order to confine a fine, good young man, in the prime of his life, to any kind of a prison. Ted has so much potential for accomplishment, for being a very responsible member of society, that not only would he suffer but society as a whole, should he be confined to a prison. Already six months of his life have been wasted because of all this.

Oh, there is so much more I could say, Judge Hanson. It's too bad we can't get together and talk about this face to face. Let me just close by saying that all of Ted's family stands behind him, one hundred percent. Many, many of his friends have been in constant contact with me, expressing the same support. Life has never been easy for him, and will be much harder from now on, but we have great confidence in his ability and desire to be a good and productive member of society. We all ask that you consider that very seriously and give him a chance to prove his worth.

Sincerely,

*Graise C. Bundy*  
*Johnnie C. Bundy*

P.S. After reading through my letter, I notice an important item I unintentionally omitted. I mentioned Ted's many friends, but did not mention girl-friends in particular. I feel that, in this case in particular, his attitude toward women, especially his peers, is important. Ted liked (likes) girls, very naturally. He had an assortment of girl-friends during late Jr. High and through High school. They surely liked him, because they were always calling him. He didn't solo date a lot, but was invited to many parties, which he enjoyed. Until he got his driver's license, we performed a lot of taxi service for those events.

In college he had several special girls (at different times). He always brought them home to meet us and we often had them for dinner or on family outings. The young woman whom he has dated almost exclusively for several years lives in Seattle. They occasionally split up or had differences of opinion, but always got back together. Ted wanted to finish his education before getting married, but she finally changed his mind on that. They had planned to be married in December, 1975, but the unfortunate happenings of early fall put an end to those plans, temporarily. She still stands by him and completely believes in his innocence. She was with us in Salt Lake City during the trial and we are in touch frequently by phone.

Ted treats girls and women with respect at all times and really enjoys their company. His two sisters love him dearly, as you can tell by the letters they have written to you.

Yes, he had dates with other girls while in Salt Lake City and the important girl was in Seattle, but those were as friends, as a very important of his social life and the Seattle young lady was well aware of them. The important thing to remember is that each one speaks highly of him.

I could say much more for and about his love for and relationship with me, his sisters, his aunts, girl cousins, but will not take your time. Suffice to say it has always been a loving, good relationship all the way around.

L.B.